distt. Pauri Garhwal, road was constructed 10 years ago under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) whether it is a fact that road is not completed till date nor has been metalling work done and still pending with Government for conversion into heavy vehicles road; and

(c) whether Central Government propose to instruct the State Government of Uttaranchal for completion of that road so that the villagers around there may get proper benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Upgradation of the road work from Pauri to Dhalchauri of 5.5 km length in Kot block of Pauri Garhwal district was sanctioned under Phase-I (2000-01) of PMGSY. As per the records furnished by the State Government, the work was started on 19.1.2002 and has already been completed.

Condition of weavers in West Bengal

2406. SHRI S. K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy of Government to boost hand weaved clothes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would conduct a detailed survey on condition of weavers in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing a number of schemes to enhance production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and to enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. The main developmental schemes are Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-

cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers' Welfare Scheme and Handloom Export Scheme. Further more, new schemes of Integrated Handloom Cluster Development (IHCD), Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and Health Insurance Scheme have been launched in the year 2005-06 while Handloom Mark and Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme have been launched in the year 2006-07.

(c) To ascertain the requirement of the handloom sector in an accurate manner and for formulation of more useful and effective schemes for the benefit of weavers, the first census on Handloom Sector was conducted during the year 1987-88 and second census was conducted in the year 1995-96 which aimed to generated statistically appropriate data bases for assessing the impact and progress in the sector by collecting the information on various developmental indicators particularly socio-economic profile of weaver households, distribution of weaver units and weavers, details about type of looms, yarn consumption and fabric production. The target population of the census was the total weaving households/weavers in the country. Proposal to conduct a fresh census for handloom sector throughout the country is under consideration.

Repeal of JPM Act

2407. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to repeal the JPM Act, 1987 now that sufficiently long time has passed for the jute industry to adjust in the market; and

(b) whether Government are aware that import of the jute bags is increasing after the decision taken by Government to reserve 100 per cent of foodgrains and sugar to be packed in jute packing material, in case of shortage of jute bags in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to repeal the JPM Act, 1987.

(b) The order issued under the JPM Act, 1987 prescribes the percentage of total production of comodity or class of comodities required to be packed

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